SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year — October 1st, 1973

No 216

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

On the return of captured and detained Vietnamese civilian personnel in SVN

"AT present, hundreds of thousands of patriotic and peace-loving people in South Viet Nam ... are being illegally detained, maltreated or murdered in the prisons of the Saigon administration.

The deep-seating cause of this grave situation lies in the interventionist and aggressive policy of the United States against South Viet Nam. The United States has set up the Saigon administration as a tool to realize its scheme of imposing US neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam.

Though being compelled to end the war of aggression and withdraw its troops from South Viet Nam, the United States has not given up its dream of materializing the Nixon doctrine and US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. The United States continues its military involvement and its intervention in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam. It has condoned and encouraged the Saigon administration to violate the Paris Agreement and elude the return of captured and detained Vietnamese civilian personnel. It keeps playing the role of a zealous adviser to the coercive and repressive apparatus of the Saigon administration, supplying the latter with dollars and means to consolidate and develop its prison system with a view to detaining en masse and for a long time those who love the country and peace and advocate national reconciliation and concord in South Viet Nam.

The United States and the Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for this serious situation arising from their violations of the Paris Agreement.

It is the unswerving stand of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to strictly respect and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and at the same time to firmly demand that the United States and the Saigon administration do the same.

Concerning the return of captured and detained military and civilian personnel, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has, together with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, scrupulously implemented the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Protocol on the return of captured and detained personnel. Public opinion has clearly realized the good will of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN and the Government of the DRVN in the return of captured US military personnel and captured civilian personnel of foreign countries. With regard to captured Vietnamese civilian personnel, in keeping with its traditional policy of national concord and with a view to "ending hatred and enmity, in order to ease suffering and to reunite families" as provided for in the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the RSVN PRG has overcome all difficulties to complete the list of the persons belonging to the Saigon administration who have been captured and detained. We have created all conditions for the rapid return of all these persons to the Saigon administration.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government strongly denounces and severely condemns before public opinion the breaches of the Paris Agreement by the United States and the Nguyen Van Thieu administration as well as their crimes against the patriotic and peace-loving people they are detaining. The PRG resolutely demands that the Nguyen Van Thieu administration end immediately the repression, persecution, murder and inhuman treatment of all those still detained by it and return immediately, and without any pretext all detained patriotic and peace-loving persons, including those belonging to the Third Force. The PRG of the RSVN resolutely demands that the United States scrupulously and fully implement its obligation, so that all Vietnamese civilian personnel captured and detained by the Saigon administration may be returned in strict application of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Joint Communiqué of June 13, 1973.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam urgently calls on the governments and peoples of peace- and justice-loving countries throughout the world, including the progressive people in the United States, international democratic organizations, and social and religious organizations, to condemn the acts of the United States and the Saigon administration which have been infringing in a very serious manner upon the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, release immediately all civilian personnel still detained by them, and strictly and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Joint Communiqué of June 13, 1973."

South Viet Nam, August 30, 1973

Excerpts from the Memorandum of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam

Even under medical treatment, this girl detainee is in iron legs day and night

(Continued)

"The law in South Viet Nam does not permit the arrest of a person merely for his opposition to the policies of the government. The people are freely expressing their opinion in South Viet Nam."

Public Communiqué 06-73
Embassy of Viet Nam,
Washington, DC, May 29, 1973

DON LUCE

In fact the Saigon government has issued a series of laws and decrees that have resulted in thousands of citizens being arbitrarily arrested. These laws include the following:

Article 2 of decree law 93-SL/CIT: shall be considered as pro-communist neutralist a person who commits acts of propaganda for and incitement of neutralism.

DECEIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Article 3 of decree law 004/TT/SLU: in the war or martial law situation all forms of labor disputes, even those that have gone through a process of mediation, and even if its only purpose is to provide mutual support to resolve a labor conflict, will be strictly forbidden.

Article 19 of decree law 044/66 makes it possible to administratively detain a Vietnamese citizen for up to two years without trial of charge. This sentence is renewable. In a telegram of April 5, 1973 from the Prime Minister's Office, provincial authorities were urged to use administrative detention "if you don't have enough evidence to bring the person before a military tribunal."

On September 16, 1972 a new press law went into effect. On that day, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, 92 South Vietnamese publications were shut down. Information Minister Truong Buu Diem, when asked if papers could criticize the government, said: "Sure, if they do it right."

On January 22, in preparation for the impending Paris Peace Agreement, Thieu issued strict new edicts, including:

"1. —All police and military forces are permitted to shoot to kill all those who urge the people to demonstrate. And these who cause disorders or incite other persons to follow communism...

. . . . . .

6. —Arrest and detain those persons who incite the people to create disorder and confusion, or to leave those areas controlled by the government in order to go into the communist-controlled zones or vice versa. If they protest, they will be shot.

7. —Detain those persons who are neutralist and those persons who publicly side with the communists, and who are active politically. They will be taken before a military court as soon as possible.

8. — Implement quickly and thoroughly rules and regulations concerning reporters and political parties in order to stop illegal activities on the part of politicians..."

"There is no widespread or systematic mistreatment of inmates. The simultaneous existence of a very low ratio of guards to inmates, comparatively insecure prisons, and the low escape rate would seem to indicate this. With regard to the crippled prisoners, we have a very detailed report of their history compiled by Dr Brown who formerly served as medical advisor to the Government corrections directorate. We will be happy to forward a copy to you if you feel it would be of use to the committee."

Ray Meyer, Second Secretary US Embassy, Saigon, April 3, 1973 (Letter to the Investigation Team of the US Senate Subcommittee on Refugees).

DON LUCE

After requesting the reports twice, the Subcommittee on Refugees received them classified as confidential. This confirms a statement by Garnett Zimmerly, Deputy Assistant Administrator for AID, that reports by American doctors on what they have seen in the prisons have been classified.

To maintain that there is "no widespread or systematic mistreatment of inmates" is contrary to the reports of released prisoners and US news sources. In March 1973, after 104 prisoners were released from Con Son, their condition was described by *Time Magazine* (March 19, 1973):

"It is not really proper to call them men any more—'shapes' is a better word. Grotesque sculptures of scarred flesh and gnarled limbs."

The *London Times* (March 4, 1973) wrote:

"Their bodies, bearing the marks of irons and chains, are like skeletons. Their legs are paralyzed. They are political prisoners who were released by Saigon authorities at the end of last month from the infamous 'tiger cages' on the island of Con Son".

One reason for the low guard ratio and low escape rate is that a very substantial number of Vietnamese prisoners are shackled. Also, in addition to official guards, the South Vietnamese prisons use criminal prisoners to control the political prisoners (as Hitler did at Auchwitz and Babi Yar).

Congress does have the sworn testimony of one American doctor who has examined dozens of people immediately after release. Dr. John Champlin testified to the House Foreign Affairs Committee on June 11, 1973 that:

"The prisoners I examined were all partially or completely paralyzed at the knee joint and completely paralyzed below the knees. The patellar reflexes are decreased or absent and achilles tendon (ankle) reflexes are absent in all cases. Considerable atrophy in muscle contracture was present in the legs of all prisoners, often to the extent that I could encircle the prisoner's leg above the ankle with my thumb and index finger. These facts present an objective medical evidence that the prisoners' paralysis was organic and real.

"Two-thirds of the prisoners I examined had clinical signs of symptoms of tuberculosis. All had symtoms of vitamin deficiency and other serious internal diseases... these prisoners told of being in tiger cases for periods of two and one-half to seven years. During that time they spent months and years without interruption in leg irons while subsisting on a diet of only three handfuls of rice and three swallows of water daily..."

"The prisoners with whom I talked said they had all been examined more than once by American military physicians while in prison but they denied having received so much as an aspirin during their confinement."

"All the detainees in government prisons are treated humanely at all times in accordance with international practice. The International Red Cross which has visited them many times has confirmed their good living conditions in all places where they are held."

Tran Kham, First Secretary, Embassy Viet Nam, Washington, DC4, April 30, 1973.

DON LUCE

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has repeatedly denied giving its seal of approval to Saigon's jails. Yet the Thieu government keeps using the ICRC to "prove" that they have provided humane treatments. The last public statement by the ICRC denying this was issued March 21, 1973:

"The ICRC repeats its earlier statements that it was precisely because of the restrictions imposed by the South Viet Nam government — particularly the prohibition of private talks with detainees — that in March 1972, it discontinued visits to interned civilians."

This statement was expanded upon in a letter of May 28 by the ICRC:

"We regret that some of the dispositions of the Protocol concerning the POW's annexed to the Paris Agreement have not been implemented, especially regarding the protection granted to civilian detainees.

With regard to the ICRC, the visits to civilian detainees camps have been discontinued more than a year ago, due to the restrictions imposed by the government of South Viet Nam, in the development of these visits.

"It has been alleged that there are hundreds of thousands of political prisoners. However, we have seen no evidence to substantiate any such number. According to our latest information, the civilian prison population is about 25,000 to 30,000."

Marshall Wright, Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations Department of State, March 2, 1973 (letter to Senator Robert Griffin).

DON LUCE

Many other organizations, whose figures are available to the Department of State, disagree drastically with this:

— 181,000: South Vietnamese Committee to reform the prison system, June, 1973.

— More than 240,000: Anglican News Service (Canadian), December 14, 1972.

— 200,000: Ngo Cong Duc (who got his figures by adding up the numbers of prisoners in each prison. As a former Vietnamese national assembly-man, he had access to this type of information), reported in the *New York Times*, September 7, 1972.

— Hundreds of thousands of civilian political prisoners who are affiliated with a military side: Buddhist Peace Delegation to Paris of the Unified Buddhist Church of Viet Nam, March 30, 1973.

On November 9, 1972, Hoang Duc Nha reportedly told a group of Vietnamese publishers that 40,000 "communist agents" had been arrested in "the past few weeks."

Thieu's 1973 budget, according to one Vietnamese legislator, provides for 400,000 prisoners and by official count, one US program alone in Viet Nam, the Phoenix Operation, has detained at least 100,000 people.

Most US government reports only include a small percentage of the prisons when giving the number of prisoners. A recent "fact sheet" on the prison system in Viet Nam said: "The present correctional system of South Viet Nam consists of four national prisons, one national juvenile correction center and 35 provincial prisons."

A letter of May 29, 1973 from John Hannah, administrator for AID, to a US Congressman shows how incomplete the said fact sheet was. He listed the number of prisons as:

— National correction centers	5
— Provincial correction centers	35
— National police detention facilities	44
— District police detention facilities	250
— Facilities at autonomous cities police headquarters	17
— Detention centers in rural village police stations	250
Total	601

Even these figures do not include the military prisons where conscientious objectors, draft evaders, etc. are kept. Many of the Buddhist monks, Cao Dai priests and other religious leaders are kept in the military prisons.

"There are no political prisoners in South Viet Nam: there are only two kinds of prisoners: 21,007 of common law and 5,081 communist criminals."

Nguyen Van Thieu, President, Republic of Viet Nam, April 9, 1973 (to Pope Paul VI).

DON LUCE

After his easter week 1973 trip to South Viet Nam, auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit, wrote, "I can state unequivocally that there are political prisoners in Saigon's jails and in jails throughout the provinces. They are in jail not for any crime, but simply because they are in political opposition to the present government. The proof is overwhelming. And it is clear that these prisoners are subject to inhumane treatment, including deliberate and prolonged torture."

The Vietnamese national assembly-man, Tran Ngoc Chau, who received the most votes in the 1967 national assembly elections, remains in jail. The Vietnamese Buddhists have a list of 626 Buddhist monks who are in jail, including locations and prison numbers.

In order to decrease the number of political prisoners, the Saigon government has been simply changing their status to common criminals. The United States Embassy in Saigon wrote to Senator Edward Kennedy that:

(*To be continued*)

"Give back my son to me!" demands student Huynh Tan Mam's mother

Letter from parents of detained students

RELATIVES of the students still detained by the Saigon administration have sent a letter to the International Commission of Control and Supervision, the Two-Party Joint Military Commission, and the International Red Cross Society urging them to intercede with the Nguyen Van Thieu administration for their return.

The letter, signed by 32 persons including the mother of the student Huynh Tan Mam, former President of the Saigon Students' Association, deplored the continued detention of their dear ones beyond the time-limit set for the release of civilian prisoners (July 28, 1973).

The letter said:

"We, relatives of the students and pupils still detained by the government of the Republic of Viet Nam, including many detainees' mothers, have the honour to address to you for an intervention near the said government in view of releasing our sons and daughters. The time-limit provided for the return of captured civilian personnel has been passed (July 28) and our beloved children to this day still remain in jails. How will be their fate, nobody knows.

We Vietnamese women have suffered immensely in wartime. Not a few among us have cried over the death of their fathers, husbands or sons and now they are still in tears because their sons and daughters remain in prison. More than anyone, we were overjoyed at the signing of the Paris Agreement and eagerly hope that with the return of peace, all our patriots would share the common in the joy of reconciliation and national concord, of the cessation of enmity, of an alleviation of suffering and of family reunion as provided by Article 8 (c) of the Agreement and we would be able to take our sons and daughters back to the warmth of family. However, we are deeply disappointed and grieved to see them remain in prison and subject to most inhuman measures which run counter to the spirit of the Agreement. They have been sent to one prison after another and to unknown places of detention and interrogation centres.

We can assert that prisoners in South Viet Nam are given very scanty food, that at Tan Hiep jail each has no more than two bowls of thin soup a day. We have also learned that things are no better in other jails.

We are also told that a number of students have been returned to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam but actually remain in Loc Ninh. Others are unheard of and we wonder what has happened to them."

The letter went on:

"Where our sons are freed is not important. However, we can assert they are not communists as the government (Thieu administration) claimed. We gave birth to them in South Viet Nam and have all along lived with them. Nobody knows them better than their own parents. We knew our sons and daughters' character and thinking, hence we also knew the reason why they were arrested and detained. They have committed no other crime than to love their country and their countrymen and to struggle for the right to live of the poor and oppressed people including their own parents, to struggle for peace and an end to the war for which their parents, brothers and friends had fought and made sacrifices. This is a plain truth. This is a righteous and noble thing which every honest people must approve..."

The letter concluded:

"We earnestly call on the ICCS, the representatives of the peace-loving countries and supporters of the Paris Agreement, for its responsibility and for humanitarianism to intercede with the government of Republic of Viet Nam to make it implement scrupulously the provisions of the Agreement so as to bring about peace and national concord, to end enmity, alleviate sufferings and reunite the families in accordance with Article 8 (c) for which all Vietnamese and we in particular have been yearning."

US RESPONSIBLE FOR SAIGON BREACHES OF PROVISIONS ON PRISONERS

UNTIL now, the Saigon administration has refused to comply with Article 8 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and Article 8 of the Joint Communiqué signed on June 13, 1973. It has not yet returned all the captured civilians nor strictly carried out such releases as were agreed upon at the sessions of the two-party Joint Military Commission on July 17 and 18, 1973. Since the signing of the Paris Agreement, many prisoners still held by the Thieu regime, many well-known personalities in Saigon and throughout South Viet Nam, many political activists and organizations as well as intellectuals in the world have sent petitions and letters or passed resolutions urging the Thieu administration to release completely and promptly the political prisoners in South Viet Nam and pointing to US responsibility of making the Saigon administration scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

In recent days, from the areas under Saigon's control many more letters of prisoners or their parents and mass organizations have been made public, denouncing Saigon brutal prison regime and sinister disposal of political prisoners or carrying them to unknown destinations. This has caused a great shock and indignation among the public in many countries including the United States. Yet, on August 17, 1973, Thieu arbitrarily brought to trial five civilians arrested in Tay Ninh in November 1972. Thieu's court passed the death penalty on two of them, Tran Van Cui, number 23269 detained in Chi Hoa jail, and Pham Thi Ut number 1738/GTQS detained in Thu Duc prison, and terms ranging from ten to twenty years' hard labour on three others: Nguyen Van Se, number 644/CJ detained in Chi Hoa jail. Cao Thien My, number 645/MTCT detained in Chi Hoa jail, and Nguyen Van Be, number 643/MTCT detained in Chi Hoa jail. Tran Thien Khiem, Saigon's Prime Minister, bluntly told the participants in a "teach-in on administrative reform" that the Paris Agreement "could be scrapped any time". The Saigon daily *Dan Chu* (Democracy) of the Thieu group reported on September 12, 1973 that Tran Thien Khiem had instructed his police to "root out the Vietcong infrastructure."

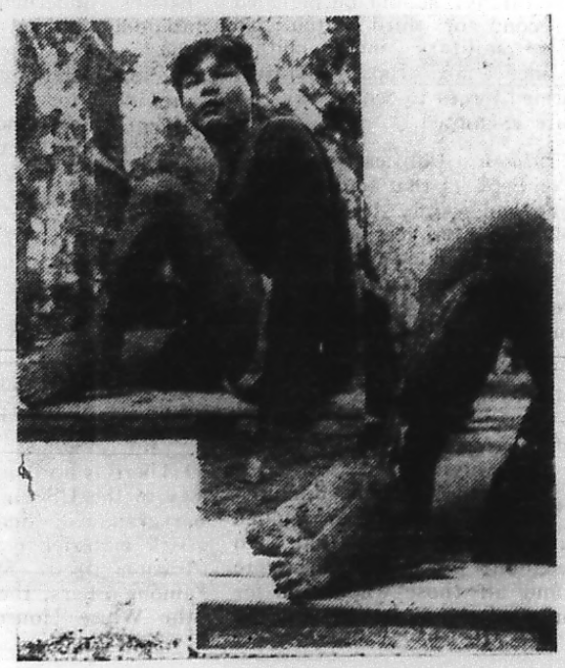
The Nixon administration asserts that it has nothing to do with all that. Nixon even ordered the State Department to declare that his administration would not bring any pressure to bear upon Thieu on the ground that Article 4 of the Paris Agreement bans all internal affairs of South Viet Nam. This is a gross distortion of the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement and sheer aiding and abetting Thieu's wrong doings which, as a matter of fact, always have Washington's blessing. However, all these equivocations of the Nixon administration have been exposed by progressive opinion in the world and right in the United States. On September 9, 1973, Senator E. Kennedy said that Saigon public security actions are now referred to as technical support civil right development projects and public service projects, etc. The Nixon administration, he said, has spent at least 15,217,000 dollars on public security projects in South Viet Nam, and evidence suggests that additional funds are hidden elsewhere in US financial aid for Saigon national budget. For example, on January 21, the US Embassy in Saigon promised to supply more than 100,000 dollars in support of the prison system...

In his letter dated June 12, 1973 to his congressman, Mathew J. Harvey, Director of the Legal Department of the Agency for International Development, disclosed that out of the millions of dollars used to finance police activities in South Viet Nam in fiscal 1974, 9.3 million were earmarked by the Defence Department for the national (Thieu) police to purchase replacement equipment, that is to say massive replacement of equipment.

In practice, other funds from the US have provided an additional six million dollars for Thieu's police activities.

A document published by the US Committee of the International Committee for the Release of Prisoners in

(Continued on page 7)



Physical state of political prisoners in Thieu's jails

46 SOUTH VIET NAM PLAF UNITS AND 20 FIGHTERS HONOURED

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To mark the 28th anniversary of the South Viet Nam Resistance against the French colonialists, the Council of Ministers of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has decided to award the hero title to 46 units and 20 officers and men of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The newly-decorated collectivity units and men are worthy representatives of the undaunted collectivity and the revolutionary resolve to fight and to win of the heroic South Vietnamese army and people in a gruelling but glorious period of the national struggle.

RSVN — SENEGAL JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

His Excellency Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL CC and President of the PRG Advisory Council of the RSVN has made, at the invitation of his Excellency Léopold Sedar Senghor, President of the Republic of Senegal, an official visit to Senegal from September 14 to 17, 1973.

His Excellency Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL CC and of the PRG Advisory Council of the RSVN was accompanied by an official retinue comprising:

Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister;

Mr Ho Xuan Son, Chief of Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs;

Mr Nguyen Chi Nhan, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the PRG in Dakar;

Mr Nguyen Van Dong, Deputy Chief of Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs;

Mr Huynh Van Nghia, Deputy Chief of Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency Nguyen Huu Tho and his delegation have visited:

— the Museum of the I.F.A.N.

— the island of Gorée

and the testing agricultural station of Sangalakam.

During his stay, the President of the Advisory Council of the RSVN PRG was enthusiastically welcomed by the people of Senegal who have showed their esteem and admiration for the South Vietnamese people and for the time-honoured ties of friendship and fraternal solidarity between the two peoples.

The visit of his Excellency Nguyen Huu Tho which constitutes an important stage in the relationship between the peoples of Viet Nam and Senegal has enabled the Chief of State of Senegal and his honorable guest to proceed in a cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding, to the exchange of views on the principal international issues as well as on the bilateral relations between the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Republic of Senegal.

The two Chiefs of State have besides held on Sept. 15, 1973 in Dakar, an enlarged session of work with the members of the Vietnamese and Senegalese delegations.

On behalf of the South Vietnamese, his Excellency President Nguyen Huu Tho has reiterated his profound gratitude towards the President of the Republic of Senegal, his Excellency Léopold Sedar Senghor, towards the Government and the people of Senegal for their assistance and support to the legitimate struggle of the Vietnamese people.

His Excellency President Nguyen Huu Tho is particularly pleased with the important role played by the President of the Republic of Senegal, his Excellency Léopold Sedar Senghor, in favour of peace, freedom and justice in the world as well as in Africa, and also in favour of the ever increasing support to the African movements for national liberation.

He has paid tribute to the Chief of State of Senegal for the remarkable gains in the cultural, social and economic fields, as shown by industrial development and by the diversification of the Senegalese agriculture. He has expressed his wishes for the complete success of the realization of the fourth 4-year plan of Senegal.

His Excellency President Nguyen Huu Tho has also extended his congratulations to the President of the Republic of Senegal for his positive action in favour of the achievement of the noble objectives of Africa's unity, particularly for the creation of whole large groups, regions and sub-regions of economy — important stages of the path to the building of African unity.

The Chief of State of Senegal has warmly congratulated the South Vietnamese side for the signal victories won by the heroic South Vietnamese people under the leadership of the NFL and the PRG, especially in military, political and diplomatic fields.

On this occasion, the President of the Republic of Senegal has particularly paid tribute to his honorable guest for the firm will for independence showed by the South Vietnamese people.

The two sides are convinced that the friendship and fraternel solidarity between the peoples of Viet Nam and Senegal continue to develop and strengthen, in conformity on the one hand with the interests of the two peoples and on the other with the cause of peace and independence of the world's people.

The Chief of State of Senegal has reiterated his support to the heroic struggle of the South Vietnamese people under the leadership of the PRG, the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, for the complete achievement of the objectives stipulated in the Paris Agreement of Jan. 27, 1973 with a view to building an independent, peaceful, democratic, neutral, prosperous and happy South Viet Nam.

The Chief of State of Senegal has finally expressed his serious preoccupation about the systematic violations of the basic clauses of the Paris Accord and the Joint Communiqué on Viet Nam — violations that have been threatening seriously the efforts made so far by the PRG to settle peacefully the South Vietnamese problem.

The two sides re-assert their allegiance to the principles of non-alignment which represent a significant contribution to the independence of the Third World, particularly to the development of the Afro-Asian co-operation and are gratified with positive results obtained by the recent Algiers Conference.

The two sides are pleased with the resounding victories recorded by the peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos in their just patriotic struggle for national independence.

The two sides re-affirm their firm support to the just cause of the peoples fighting against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, for the recovery and the consolidation of national independence and sovereignty, and against racial discrimination.

On the bilateral plane, the two sides pledge to further strengthen and diversify their co-operation in the political, economic, cultural and social fields.

His Excellency Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL CC, President of the Advisory Council of the RSVN PRG and his delegation has expressed his warm thanks to the President of the Republic, the Government, the Senegalese Progressive Union and the entire Senegalese people for the heartfelt welcome and the attentive hospitality granted to him, as well as to the Vietnamese delegation, during their stay in Senegal.

Dakar, September 17, 1973

For the Republic of South Viet Nam
H.E. NGUYEN HUU THO

For the Republic of Senegal
H.E. LÉOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR

Militarization of civil servants :

A serious violation of the Paris Agreement

AFTER militarizing the organs of power at all levels from Saigon to the provinces, districts, villages and hamlets, the Thieu administration is now feverishly carrying out the militarization of both male and female civil servants.

A military training centre has been created at Vung Tau (formerly Cape Saint Jacques). Every civil servant must come there to learn the handling of weapons, after which he will be sent to a village or a hamlet for "practising purposes," that is, taking part in a pacification operation.

A first batch of civil servants is being trained at Vung Tau. According to a communiqué published by *Dien Tin* (Telegraph) on Sept. 13, 1973, all civil servants, from the Ministry department chief (director general) down the lowest one in the administrative hierarchy, should be included in the second or third batch. No category of military men — neither former ones nor those detailed by the armed forces to occupy civilian posts — are exempted.

Chinh Luan (Political Opinion) reported on Sept. 11 that senator Doan Van Luong had vainly intervened in favour of male civil servants over 50 years old and female civil servants with five or more children, war widows and wives of militarymen in active service now being trained at Vung Tau.

The above reports throw a strong light on the Vietnamization policy at the present period. While US military advisers are "civilianized", all civil servants of the Saigon administration are militarized for police and pacification operations, that is to persecute, hunt down and massacre patriots and all those who stand for peace (branded "indesirable") in the zone under Thieu's control. How many mothers of large families and old civil servants have succumbed in military training, and how many will be turned into assassins or will perish in future police actions?

While visiting Vung Tau, Thieu unmistakably declared on Sept. 14 that he would maintain the Saigon troop strength at the 1.1 level. Even this does not seem enough, for he wants to forcibly militarize 300,000 male and female civil servants at all echelons.

1.4 million "soldiers," at least on paper, out of a population of at most 10 million in the Saigon-controlled zone! What is this for, eight months after the Paris Agreement came into effect, and while, in accordance with the Joint Communiqué, the Saigon party has together with the other parties concerned pledged to strictly abide by, and scrupulously implement, the said Agreement the related Protocols and the Communiqué which provides for a new cease-fire and urgent measures to strengthen the peace restored and arrive at a peaceful settlement of South Viet Nam's internal problems?

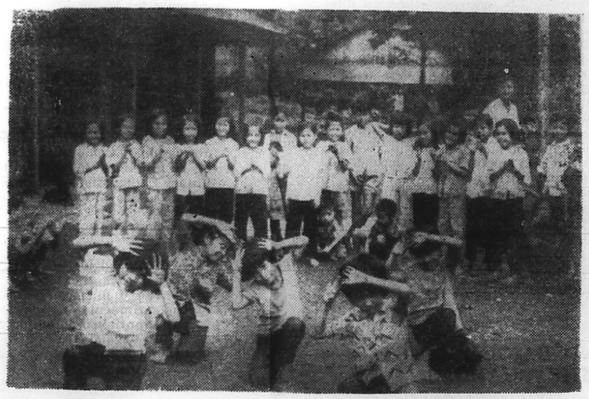
Clearly, the Thieu clique are not only fostering war but preparing for new adventures. The militarization of civilian servants of both sexes which has sprung from Hitler's practice in the 1930's is part and parcel of a warlike policy and constitutes a serious isolation of the spirit and letter of the Paris Accord.

There is no denying the responsibility of the US since Vietnamization is programmed, financed and supplied with matériel by the Nixon administration itself. Suffice it to quote, among others, the following passage of the White House's *Summary of the fundamental clauses of the Agreement on Viet Nam*:

The Vietnamese (Saigon) administration recognized by the United States continues to exist in future. The fundamental constitutional structures as well as the political leaders of this administration continue to function, without change. This administration is entitled to receive 'unlimited economic aid' and 'complementary military aid' which, materializing under the form of war materials, will permit to maintain the world's strongest army as well as a huge police organization (retranslated from the French).

Fortunately, Nixon's neo-colonialist dreams have more often than not failed to come true. "The world's strongest army," with the third largest air force, has received telling counter-blows in encroaching operations against PRG-controlled areas. Thieu's police has no better luck in sweeps in the very zone under Saigon control. Opposition to his war policy and desertions are upgrading in that army and police which Thieu is trying to put in order by introducing bureaucrats of all calibers.

Nixon and Thieu cannot but cause nuisance if not misfortune to those paid agents already harmed by galoping inflation and ever-mounting taxes which have sent living cost skyrocketing. They will generate, in their own administrations and offices, enlightened adversaries who, if they know how to rely on, and cooperate with, the struggling masses, could contribute to ending their adventures sooner. For them as for the whole population of South Viet Nam there is no other alternative: to struggle and thereby force the US and Thieu to abide by, and strictly implement, the Paris Agreement.



A dance and song training course in Loc Ninh primary school

Excerpts from the weekly magazine AFRIQUE ASIE

The forge roars at BU DOP

While Thieu keeps violating the Peace Accord, life is restored to normal in liberated villages

Today street scenes at Bu Dop, a township liberated less than a year ago, are those of a big festival. Adorned with PRG red-blue and-golden-starred flags, the streets are bustling with an intense and totally peaceful activity. What a far cry from the commando training centre crowded sometime ago with American advisers! The roads were then ploughed up by military convoys. Vestiges of this not too old past can still be seen, in the vicinity of the township. Carcasses of half-charred armoured cars, ammo cases and US military ration boxes are still littering both sides of the roads leading to Bu Dop.

A minimum of work has been done in a year. Bridges and roads have been repaired. Here and there newly built houses prove that life has been restored to normal. For the Bu Dop people, the signing of the peace accord coincided with their first hasvest, and their ardour has been consequently redoubled. At Thien Hung — one of the district's villages, Mr Sau, an old peasant, told me in an emotion-charged voice while showing me the thick-leaved rubber trees:

"Look at all this. Things were not to bright last year at liberation. The enemy had sowed a lot of doubt and mistrust regarding the revolutionary power. They threatened us with bombing if we refused to side with them. We were frightened. Yet we all are still here with the new organization."

"And very solidly at that!" he added with an outburst of laughter.

At last school!

From Thien Hung, I went to Chau Minh, a hamlet whose inhabitants are fervent catholics Mr Ba Xuan, one of the Bu Dop elders who has lived until liberation on his modest income as an agricultural worker, seemed to be made ten years younger. He told me of the changes occurring for a year to his life and to that of his family. The new power caters for them when comes the pre-harvest season and gives them land and medical care. Technicians had come and taught them the necessary know-how to apply new methods of production. And then what Ba Xuan had been longing for him, has become a reality for his children: they can at last go to school...

Whose is the maize grown by the people?

An anecdote still often retold by the Bu Dop people shows to what extent mistrust of the revolutionary power had been generated by the enemy. Last year, after its installation the revolutionary power called to the population to develop foodstuff production.

The first maize harvest was relatively good. But certain families of Tan Xa Kiem hamlet still felt uneasy. They went to the hamlet head and asked him for permission to harvest some maize for their own consumption. The man answered them in a half-surprised half-amused voice:

"Why this maize is yours, you can do what you like with it."

The answer was even more astonishing than the question. As a matter of fact, that for quite a long time enemy propaganda had been incessantly repeating that "everything is to be divided in the liberated zone" and that "for the use of anything, permission has to be obtained from the Communists."

A different atmosphere is now prevailing at Tan Xa Kiem. It is a hamlet of more than one thousand souls, newly built and inhabited by breakaway people from Saigon. Until then, their occupation had been the collection of the sap of rubber-trees on a small trade. Since their settlement here, they have learned how to till the land and to work collectively. From 36 hectares of ricefield placed at their disposal at the start, they now have 67 hectares.

The whole day, one can hear hammers striking on anvils. The principal blacksmith of the hamlet, Tam Hoac, actively forges spades. Nam Lu, his assistant, is busy with the bellows made up with 175mm shell cases. Another assistant, Ranh, his back wet with perspiration, cuts steel plates from US tanks.

Tam Hoac wiped his forehead with the back of his hand and said with a smile:

"In their flight the Americans left behind a lot of raw materials, which was welcome. Everybody: women, youngsters... now wanted spades, pick-axes and machetes. At the beginning I didn't know whom to serve first.. Now things are much better and our workshop will soon be expanded."

Foodstuffs are farmed by mutual help teams grouping each a few dozen families. Thanks to a better organization of work and to the fact that families in need can expect help from others, those teams have brought in one of the best harvests of the region, they have also reclaimed dozens of hectares of land left fallow or turned up by bombs.

CAO KIM

Land reclaiming in Tan Bien (Tay Ninh)

On the co-existence of two South Vietnamese administrations

(Concluded)

"The truth is that the Saigon administration has been seriously and systematically violating many provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

What it has done is but the logical continuation of its previous crimes against our people in the US war of aggression. If formerly it helped the Americans' aggression, it is now serving as their tool for sabotaging peace and the Paris Agreement. In this connection, President Nixon's recent statement and the White House's Digest of the fundamental provisions of the Agreement on Viet Nam are significant. Mr Nixon declared on January 23, 1973 that the US would continue to recognize the government of the Republic of Viet Nam as the sole legal government in South Viet Nam. As regards Article 9 of the Paris Agreement which requires that "foreign countries shall not impose any political tendency or personality on the South Vietnamese people", the White House's document mades it clear that the Vietnamese government (i.e. the Nguyen Van Thieu administration) recognized by the US would continue to exist, as it is fundamentally structured in the Constitution, just as the political leaders of that government would continue to exist without being subject to any change.

This statement is in itself a negation of the "legal, constitutional and democratic" character of Thieu administration and exposes its true colours as a tool for US aggression and a quisling government installed by the US in South Viet Nam.

The Saigon regime is furthermore a storm-trooper for Nixon's "Asian doctrine". The invasion of Cambodia by Thieu's troops in 1970 and their aggression against Southern Laos in 1971 are relevant vivid illustration. Article 20 of the Paris Agreement stipulates: "Foreign countries shall put an end to all military activities in Cambodia and Laos, totally withdraw from and refrain from reintroducing into two countries troops, military advisers and military personnel, armaments, munitions and war material." However, so far, the Saigon quislings not only have not withdrawn their troops from Cambodia, but they have even sent there fresh contingents. Recently in face of the decision of the US Congress to force Nixon to stop the bombing of Cambodia as from August 15, the American and the Saigon administrations have begun preparing public opinion for Saigon's taking the place of the US in the bombing of Cambodia and considering, if necessary, in a careful and thorough manner, all eventual requests for armed intervention by the Lon Nol government.

With regard to Laos, the Saigon administration has always set its face against a coalition government. Of late, the paper *Dan Chu*, mouthpiece of Thieu's "Democratic Party," has come out strongly against the signing of the Agreement between the two Lao parties on the setting up of a similar government in Laos.

Regarding the Arab World, the fact that the Saigon administration's establishing diplomatic relations with, and receiving aid from, Israel is a clear indication of its attitude toward the Palestinian resistance. It not only sides with the Israeli aggressors but even takes the cudgels when they invaded and illegally occupied Arab territories.

Insofar as the great community of the Non-Aligned countries is concerned, Thieu brazenly rejected the Georgetown Conference's resolution to admit the PRG as a full-fledged member, as invalid for not having been taken in accordance with the "unanimity principle" and as "inconsistent with the Paris Agreement."

It was but a clumpsy attempt against the resolute position of the Non-Aligned countries for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, and staunch support of the PRG's effort to get the Paris Accord, and Joint Communiqué strictly implemented. The arrogant reaction of the Saigon rulers against the Senegalese government's and President Sedar Senghor's recognition of the PRG was an affront to a sovereign country whose decisions concerning its domestic and foreign affairs are taken in the interests of its people and of its independence and not under the pressure of outsiders. Saigon rejected the recognition as an act of interference in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam although it was widely welcomed at home and abroad. It showed that the Senegalese government is behind the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese, the defender of the Paris Agreement and the staunch champion of the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. It was consonant with the spirit of the Georgetown Conference's fully valid resolution. The Saigon administration's frantic protest only revealed it as an enemy of the great family of the Non-Aligned countries. It was part of its scheme to deny the existence of the PRG of the RSVN, which scheme will certainly fail as lamentably as in Georgetown.

THE legality of the PRG is an undeniable fact. Its existence is beyond question. If the legal representativeness of the PRG is not recognized, the present political situation in South Viet Nam cannot be settled.

The PRG advocates that the question of power in South Viet Nam — stemming from the incontestable reality that there exist in South Viet Nam two administrations, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces — must be resolved by setting up the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord composed of three equal segments.

This Council will have the responsibility to organize genuinely free and democratic general elections to a Constituent Assembly. This will elaborate a Constitution and appoint a regular government for South Viet Nam. Such a course is the most practical and sensible way to settle the South Viet Nam problems.

To deny the legality and existence of the PRG is to reject the basis of an eventual solution to the problem of power in South Viet Nam. It is a brazen challenge to the people and liberation armed forces in South Viet Nam, and to international law. It is also a serious threat to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the International Act and the Joint Communiqué signed on June 13, 1973 by the four signatories of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

Since the barbarous "Vietnamization" of the war, the sacrifice of a great number of GIs and Saigon troops and the squandering of huge quantities of bombs and shells, have been unable to wipe out the PRG and the people's revolutionary power, the current Saigon attempt to deny the existence and legality of the PRG is only an insane endeavour.

The truth will be the truth. The PRG is a lawful government and the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. It mobilized and galvanized them to successfully resist the US imperialist aggressors and compelled the latter to sign the Paris Agreement; it has stubbornly been struggling for the strict implementation of the Agreement and for the genuine self-determination right of the South Vietnamese people and is the symbol of their bright future, whereas the Saigon administration is an offspring of the imperialists and serves them in their war of aggression against our independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and against peace and national reconciliation and concord. Forced by their setbacks and losing position to sign the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the US and the Saigon quislings are now doing their best to torpedo it. A tool of the US imperialists, the Saigon administration opposes the independence of the peoples, peace and security in the world. Therefore, under the present circumstances, with their recognition of the existence of two administrations, two armies, two zones of control in South Viet Nam as stipulated in the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the freedom-, peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world continue to give greater and more effective support and assistance to the South Viet Nam people and PRG effort to scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, to secure a solid and lasting peace and to achieve independence, freedom, democracy and national concord in South Viet Nam.

The existence of the two administrations in South Viet Nam is an undeniable fact. The Provisional Revolutionary Government is the organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese in their victorious resistance against the US aggressors, and in their successful effort to force the latter to sign the Paris Agreement, the staunch fighter for the strict implementation of this Agreement, the stubborn champion of genuine self-determination right and the symbol of the bright future of the South Vietnamese people; whereas the Saigon administration is a by-product of imperialism, a tool of the US in its fight against the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people, against peace and national reconciliation and concord; it sabotages the Paris Agreement and opposes the independence of other countries and world peace.

On which side truth and justice stand, history has already made it abundantly clear.

HUYNH VAN LY

Here and There

TWO TRAGIC AND IRONICAL DEATHS

Both occured by suicide, of an air pilot, Edward Allen Browno and of a sergeant of the infantry, Larry Cavanap, ex-POW in Viet Nam, returned to the US under the Paris Agreement. They took their own life in early May and late June 1973 because it had been made a hell on earth by the authorities with interrogations by the Pentagone, and accusations of all kinds: handing over to the enemy of the secret code of the US prisoners, setting up of a peace committee, disobedience to higher-ranking officers in the stockade, passing of military secrets to the other side and even asking to be drafted into North Vietnamese army, which thing they had never done.

Threats of prosecution, mass conviction for "collaboration" levelled at the 500 returnees and prospectives prison terms this time in the very "land of freedom" of America had made it clear to them that life was no longer worth living, as Browno has entered in his diary. And Larry Cavanap's young wife Sandra commented on the day of his burial that while the North Vietnamese had kept him alive for five long years, it was his own countrymen who killed him.

The two men's tragic ends portend a harsher and more discreet crack down on their mates.

U.S. AND SAIGON RINGING THE CHANGES

For the last two week, there has been a hectic smear campaign against the DRVN and PRG in Washington, Saigon and Phnom Penh: 12 airfields in the PRG-controlled territory reported to have been repaired by North Viet Nam, South Viet Nam's airspace violated by North Vietnamese planes, numerous anti-aircraft weapons infiltrated into South Viet Nam including SAM 2's, thousands of tons of Chinese arms landed in Dong Ha, South Viet Nam's sovereignty infringed by Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro's visit, PRG preparations for the resumption of the war...

And naturally all those fabrications were compounded with threats of US military retaliation, Saigon drastic actions against the communists possible cancellation of the Paris Agreement and so on and so forth.

But the objective of the ploy is all too apparent: legalize US and Saigon systematic sabotage attempts against the Paris Accord and prepare the ground for new military adventures aimed at implementing the Nixon doctrine under a new form.

However there is a glaring fact, a fundamental principle recognized by the Paris Agreement and reluctantly endorsed by Washington and Saigon: the existence in the South Viet Nam of two administrations two armies and two zones of control. Consequently any effort to interfere with the PRG accomplishment of its duty in home as well as foreign affairs or with its sovereignty over its own territory is doomed to failure and will invite due punishment. This is as certain as the night follows the day.

And the writing on the wall is still there for instigators of Watergates to read.

HUONG NAM

US responsible for Saigon breaches of provisions...

(Continued from page 3)

South Viet Nam from Prison, Torture and Murder, gave the following facts and figures: the US supplied 155 million dollars to Saigon police forces in the years 1967-1972 and 13 million for fiscal 1973. The document also bared Nixon's trick which consists in financing Saigon's police under the guise of the "program of post-war reconstruction in Indochina" or the "food for peace" program which is just a masquerade. Any honest person who has been following developments in Viet Nam knows that the "Phoenix" and "pacification" programs are both US efforts to put on Saigon a façade of independence and sovereignty. In fact, they are the crystallization of the all-pervasive American involvement in every aspect of life in Saigon-controlled areas. True, few Americans are involved in these programs which, however, were created by the US administration and financed by the CIA. All the modern interrogation centres and prisons from district to central level, all the "tiger cages", "cow sheds", "pig cages", "mobile tiger-cages" and the like have been financed by US funds and built by American construction firms under the direct supervision of American advisers. The number of arrests is decided by the Americans. Two US lieutenants, Francis T. Reitemeyer and Michael J. Cohn, who had taken part in the "Phoenix" campaign testified that they were under order to kill at least fifty Viet Cong in a month. The methods of identifying the suspects are devised by the Americans and approved by American advisers. Informers are hired with American funds. All the instruments of torture are provided by the US, and even the methods of torture applied by the gaolers and guards are learnt in schools in the United States. US advisers have also opened many on-the-scene courses on infliction of torture.

The present "post war reconstruction of Indochina" program, and "food for peace" program as well as the 4th drive of the "For the People" Campaign being conducted by the Thieu regime are a permanent danger to the South Vietnamese. They are hardly different from the bloody "Phoenix" campaign of the past which visited so many sufferings and deaths on the people. The only difference, if any, is their names and the methods of application which have been made more subtle, more refined and also more deadly.

Not only has the Nixon administration condoned but also directly supported Thieu's refusal to return all the captured civilians and inhuman treatment of prisoners. Tens of thousands of prisoners now in Thieu's hands were captured by US troops during bloody sweeps in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai. Elements of the 1st US Air Cavalry Division apprehended thousands of people in Tri Thien and Eastern Nam Bo and so did the 4th US Division and American Green Berets in the Central Highlands, Pleiku and the 9th US Infantry Division in the Mekong delta...

The US was compelled to withdraw its troops from South Viet Nam under the Paris Agreement. But it continues its involvement and interference in the internal affairs of this country. It supplies a prop for Nguyen Van Thieu to arrest thousands more since the signing of the Paris Agreement and to carry on his brutalities against those still under detention. Only some of the abovecited facts and figures suffice to prove that the US itself is violating the Paris Agreement and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué.

It is accumulating its blood debts to the Vietnamese people, since it has set up a huge system of American advisers and police which is actually a complete system of US command blanketing the prison system in South Viet Nam. Its hands have been stained with the blood of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese patriots killed or tortured in the hells on earth in South Viet Nam. How does it feel about its responsibility for the non-implementation of Article 8 of the Paris Agreement and Article 8 of the June 13 Joint Communiqué?

The South Vietnamese people demand that the US and the Saigon administration return immediately all the hundreds of thousands of patriotic and peace-loving people still languishing in South Viet Nam prisons. The former must be held responsible for Saigon breaches of the Agreement and the June 13 Joint Communiqué.

Land-grabbers penalized

o The Saigon administration violated the Paris Agreement and Joint Communiqué in 2,678 instances in Central Viet Nam in August, including 700 inroads into the liberated zone, during which, among other things, Saigon artillery and aircraft respectively blasted liberated villages with 78,000 rounds and over 10,000 bombs of various sizes. As a result, a great number of inhabitants were killed or injured, 350 houses obliterated, vast crops areas devastated, and large amounts of property were carried away by the raiders.

Some 3,500 of the latter were put out of action by the defenders who also shot down 3 aircraft, and bagged large quantities of weapons and other military equipment.

o In the coastal provinces of Binh Dinh and Quang Ngai alone, the Paris Agreement and Joint Communiqué were encroached upon over 450 times in August. Around 13,000 artillery rounds and 1,560 demolition or napalm bombs were dumped on various liberated villages, causing heavy property damage and casualties to the population.

In riposte, liberation forces in Binh Dinh inflicted as many as 1,400 casualties, and wrecked 40 military vehicles and 4 howitzers.

As recently as the first days of this month, guerillas and regional forces in Hoai Nhon district mounted successive counter-attacks on Saigon forces engaged in an illegal military operations, taking a toll of 120 men.

The same period saw the putting out of action of 80 Saigon intruders in the district of Binh Son and Duc Pho, of Quang Ngai province.

o In Can Tho province in the Mekong River delta local forces wiped out on the night of Sept. 4, 21 Saigon soldiers in Tan Hung village. A surprise attack launched the same night on the encampment of the Saigon 9th Division in Xa Phien village knocked out close to 50 intruders.

Also on the night of Sept. 4, guerillas in Vinh Thanh village, Rach Gia province, completely destroyed 2 Saigon "Civil Guard" platoons and levelled 3 posts. They also shelled an artillery site of Saigon attackers in Soc Ven village, wrecking two 105-mm howitzers.

o Countering a Saigon multibattalion operation in the areas of Dakrot, Trung Nghia, Ngo Thanh, Plei Clo and Chu Ret, and around Peaks 865 and 746, the High Plateaux, in the first ten days of Sept., liberation fighters did short work of 120 land-grabbers and took a great haul of war materials and supplies.

Defenders of Cai Lay, a township along Highway 4 in My Tho province in the Mekong River delta, sprang a deadly ambush on Saigon troops engaged in a sweep along the road on the night of Sept. 3. They wiped out 60 raiders, set fire to 2 military vehicles, and put the rest of the enemy to flight. Around the provincial capital that night, liberation home-guards wrote off a whole platoon of Saigon "Civil Guards."

o Saigon forces made repeated assaults on Huong Tra and Huong Thuy districts, Thua Thien province, in the first ten days of September. Despite intensive artillery support, the assailants were driven back to their own position, losing some 130 men and over 40 assorted guns.

Saigon forces, in the same period, ran into devastating ambushes southeast of Mo Tau, northeast of Ly Hy area and north of Bach Ma. 107 men of the 64th Regular Regiment, 2 "Civil-Guard" platoons, and a commando group were knocked off the charges.

o In Bay Nui area, An Giang province down south, guerillas and regional forces took a toll of over 60 Saigon rangers between Sept. 12 and Sept. 16. In addition, more than 100 Saigon troops deserted in combat, and went over to the people.

Cambodia

FRESH VICTORIES

ON September 20, two puppet battalions lost over 200 men in Chhouk Sa 3.5 km north of Sala Lek Pram, announced *AKI*.

The same night, the NKPLAF shelled the administrative office of Kongpong Cham city, causing 30 casualties.

On September 19 and 20, they also knocked down 2 T.28s over the city, killing the pilots.

In the east of the capital, the NKPLAF, on September 20 and 21, twice assaulted the reinforced position of Vihea Rour, killing and wounding 40 mercenaries.

Besides, the same agency reported that within 30 days ending September 15, the NKPLAF on all the battlefields put out of action 23,500 mercenaries including 112 officers and non-coms; levelled 134 camps, posts, positions; seized 6,500 weapons including 6 106mm and 105mm cannons, 14 75mm and 57mm recoilless guns, 136 mortars, 148 machine guns of all calibers, 23 cars, 1 tank and 400 tons of war materiel.

In addition, they destroyed 92 tanks and armoured cars, 37 military vehicles, sank 81 ships of different freights and downed 25 aircraft and helicopters.

Lon Nol troops

FULL SUCCESS TO THE 8th WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

THROUGH long drawn-out, courageous and gruelling efforts, the South Vietnamese workers and labouring people brought their anti-US patriotic resistance to a successful end with the signing of the January 27, 1973 Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam.

This historic, epoch-making victory of the Vietnamese people was closely associated with the solidarity and support of the socialist countries and the world's workers, trade unions and progressive forces.

Unprecedentedly wide campaigns of solidarity with Viet Nam were launched by the workers and labouring people in various countries at the call of national and international trade unions of different branches and of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). In nearly all towns, cities and capitals, even in remote islands, of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, Australia, hundreds of thousands of workers and progressives enthusiastically took part in support-Viet Nam rallies, meetings, demonstrations and parades. The Vietnamese people in both North and South felt particularly inspired by strikes, boycotts, refusals to handle Viet Nam-bound US war materials by American, Italian, Australian, Japanese and other workers in arms factories, transport industry, wharves and harbours.

Workers in capitalist countries including the United States, fighting under the watchword of solidarity with Viet Nam and opposition to US aggression, combined with slogans demanding better living conditions and democratic rights struck a devastating blow at capitalistic monopolies. It made it possible for the Vietnamese and national liberation movements all over the world to advance vigorously.

Of the innumerable tokens of solidarity and support to Viet Nam shown throughout the world over the past years, special mention should be made of the International Trade Union Conferences of Solidarity with Viet Nam held in Hanoi, capital of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, in 1963 and 1965, the 1968 Moscow Extraordinary Trade Union Congress, and quite a number of important international gatherings convened in France, Italy, Northern and Western Europe, America, by the WFTU, affiliated members of the WFTU, and various anti-Viet Nam war national Trade Unions under such slogans as "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese," "US get out of Viet Nam," "US go home," "Hands off Viet Nam," "Bring our boys home," "Nixon the murderer," etc.

All those actions were a precious source of encouragement to the working people of Viet Nam and a contribution to the ending of the war.

After peace was restored, the world workers' movement for all-round support and aid to the Vietnamese in both North and South was by no means discontinued and activities of solidarity with Viet Nam were pushed up. About a month after the cessation of the war, an Extraordinary Conference on Viet Nam was held in Hanoi by the WFTU Bureau to call on the workers and labouring people all over the world to strengthen their unity with Viet Nam and their support to the judicious position of the DRVN Government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the sole legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people, to give material aid for the reconstruction of North Viet Nam and the liberated zone of South Viet Nam, and to militate for US-Saigon strict implementation of the Paris Agreement. In promptly responding to the statements by the RSVN PRG on April 25 and June 28, the WFTU and its affiliated members firmly insisted that the United States put an end to its involvement and intervention in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam, that the Saigon administration abide by the cease-fire, free the hundreds of thousands of detained patriots, including workers and trade union members arbitrarily arrested and convicted, enforce democratic freedoms including freedom of movement for the South Vietnamese workers and people going about their work.

Under such slogans as : "More than ever, let's support Viet Nam !" "A bag of cement for Viet Nam !", etc., workers and trade union members, male and female, old and young, in all branches — education, transport, construction, clothing, chemistry — have been stepping up their drive of collections to help the Vietnamese people rebuild their war-devastated land.

The wholehearted support of the world workers' movement put the South Vietnamese workers and labouring people on the mettle to fulfil their exalting task : consolidate peace in South Viet Nam and reinforce the liberated areas, foil all enemy schemes and attempts to sabotage the Paris Agreement, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and eventually achieve peaceful national reunification, actively uphold the cause of the international labouring class in the interests of the workers, national independence, democracy, peace and social progress.

On the occasion of the 8th Congress of the WFTU due to meet at Varna (Bulgaria) from October 15 to 22, the South Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions for Liberation and all the workers and labouring people of South Viet Nam express their sincere gratitude to the WFTU and to their class comrades the world over and wish the Congress full success.

In the DRVN

Reception in honour of Egyptian Government delegation

A grand reception was given in Ha Noi at the Presidential Palace on the evening of Sept. 24 by the DRVN Government in honour of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt headed by its Vice-President Hussein El Shafei and his wife, on an official visit to the DRVN.

In his speech, Premier Pham Van Dong said he warmly welcomed Vice-President Hussein El Shafei and his wife, and all the other distinguished Egyptian guests, and highly praised the people of the ARE for their staunchness in the struggle in defence of their independence and national sovereignty, as well as in the building of the national economy and culture.

The DRVN Premier said : "The people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam firmly support the just struggle waged by the people of the ARE and the other Arab countries against the US imperialists and the Israeli occupationists. We firmly support the just struggle the Palestinian people are conducting for their legitimate national rights, and we believe that this struggle will end in glorious victory."

He pointed out that the struggle of the Vietnamese people to maintain and consolidate a lasting peace, to build socialism in North Viet Nam, to achieve independence and democracy in South Viet Nam, and to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country is still fraught with difficulties but will triumph completely.

Premier Pham Van Dong sincerely thanked Vice-President Hussein El Shafei and the Egyptian Government and people for their warm support to the Vietnamese people in the latter's patriotic resistance war against US aggression as well as in their current struggle for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

He expressed his belief that the visit of Vice-President Hussein El Shafei in the DRVN, like that of President Nguyen Huu Tho in the Arab Republic of Egypt, will help strengthen the friendship and militant solidarity between the two peoples.

In his speech, Vice-President Hussein El Shafei conveyed to the Vietnamese people the warm greetings from President E. Sadat and the Egyptian people. He said the Egyptian people profoundly admired and greatly rejoiced at the great victory by the Vietnamese people in their heroic struggle against the US imperialist aggressors, which victory he considered to be a common victory for all nations in the world struggling for peace, independence, and freedom.

The ARE Vice-President pointed out that the Egyptian people like the people of Viet Nam, are confronting an imperialist aggression and are resisting it with determination. For this reason, he said, the ARE is opposed to the self-styled government imposed by the US on South Viet Nam to throttle the freedom and democratic liberties of the Vietnamese people and hinder the reunification of Viet Nam.

He declared that the Egyptian people, as heretofore, would continue siding with the Vietnamese people. He also expressed his sincere thanks to the latter for the sympathy they had given to the struggle of the Arab countries.

Premier Pham Van Dong and Vice-President Hussein El Shafei, in this atmosphere of intimacy and friendship, invited everybody to drink the health of President Ton Duc Thang, of President E.Sadat, and of the other leaders of Viet Nam and of the ARE. Toasts were also proposed to the ever-developing friendship and militant solidarity between Viet Nam and the ARE.

Washington has no foreknowledge of, and is not involved in, the Chile coup!

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION